

Appl. No. 10/723,994
Amdt. dated August 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed May 26, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A golf club head, comprising:

a forward striking face; and

a rearward surface, opposite the forward striking face;

wherein the forward striking face is configured to include an engineered texture having a recessed surface and a prescribed, regular pattern of discrete, geometric shapes projecting forward from the recessed surface, wherein the geometric shapes are spaced apart from each other by at least 0.1 mm and each geometric shape has a volume of less than 0.0007 mm^3 ;

and wherein the engineered texture enhances the performance of the golf club head upon striking a golf ball, providing one or more of an increased backspin, a lower launch angle, and a higher ball speed, as compared to a golf club head having a striking face lacking such an engineered texture.

Claim 2 (original): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein the pattern of geometric shapes has a total volume of less than 0.02 mm^3 , measured over a reference region in the forward striking face having a size of 2.5 mm by 2.5 mm.

Claim 3 (original): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein the pattern of geometric shapes has a total volume, measured over a reference region in the forward striking face having a size of 2.5 mm by 2.5 mm, that is less than 25% of a volume over an equivalent portion of a golf club head having a striking face lacking such an engineered texture.

Claim 4 (original): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein the pattern of geometric shapes has a total volume, measured over a reference region in the forward striking face having a size of 2.5 mm by 2.5 mm, that is less than 15% of a volume over an equivalent portion of a golf club head having a striking face lacking such an engineered texture.

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Claim 5 (original): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein each of the geometric shapes has a volume of less than 0.0003 mm^3 .

Claim 6 (original): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein the geometric shapes all have the same shape and size.

Claim 7 (original): The golf club head of claim 1, and further comprising a plurality of grooves formed in the forward striking face.

Claims 8-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (previously presented): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein:

the forward striking face and the rearward surface form a front wall;

the golf club further include a body having a top portion, a toe portion, a heel portion, and a sole portion;

the top portion, toe portion, heel portion, and sole portion of the body define a front opening; and

the front wall is welded to the front opening of the body.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The golf club head of claim 20, wherein the front wall and at least the sole portion of the body are integrally formed with each other.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein the golf club head is an iron-type head having a loft of at least 18° .

Claim 23 (previously presented): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein the golf club head is an iron-type head having a loft of at least 45° .

Claim 24 (previously presented): The golf club head of claim 20, wherein the body and the front wall together form a hollow head having a loft less than about 25° .

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Claim 25 (previously presented): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein the engineered texture comprises a prescribed pattern of a first plurality of shapes and a second plurality of shapes, the first plurality of shapes being positioned adjacent to the second plurality of shapes.

Claim 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (previously presented): The golf club head of claim 6, wherein the geometric shapes have more than one orientation.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The golf club head of claim 1, wherein each geometric shape has an area on the forward striking face that is less than 0.05 mm.

Claim 29 (new): A wedge-type golf club head having a forward striking face, the forward striking face comprising:

a recessed surface; and

a plurality of discrete geometric shapes projecting from the recessed surface, the geometric shapes each having a volume of less than 0.007 mm^3 ;

wherein adjacent geometric shapes are separated by a distance of at least 0.1 mm.

Claim 30 (new): The golf club head of claim 29, wherein the geometric shapes each have a volume of less than 0.005 mm^3 .

Claim 31 (new): The golf club head of claim 30, wherein the geometric shapes each have a volume of less than 0.003 mm^3 .

Claim 32 (new): The golf club head of claim 29, further comprising a reference region on the forward striking face, the reference region measuring 2.5 mm by 2.5 mm, wherein the discrete geometric shapes disposed within the reference region have a combined volume of less than 0.05 mm^3 .

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Claim 33 (new): The golf club head of claim 32, wherein the forward striking face has a plurality of scorelines formed therein, and wherein the reference region is disposed between two adjacent scorelines.

Claim 34 (new): The golf club head of claim 33, wherein the discrete geometric shapes disposed within the reference region have a combined volume of less than 0.02 mm^3 .

Claim 35 (new): The golf club head of claim 29, further comprising:

a plurality of scorelines formed in the striking face; and

a reference region disposed between two adjacent scorelines, the reference region measuring 2.5 mm by 2.5 mm;

wherein the geometric shapes each have a volume of less than 0.003 mm^3 and wherein the geometric shapes disposed within the reference region have a combined volume of less than 0.02 mm^3 .

Claim 36 (new): The golf club head of claim 29, wherein the geometric shapes are about identical in size and shape.

Claim 37 (new): The golf club head of claim 29, wherein the geometric shapes are spaced substantially evenly across the forward striking face.

Claim 38 (new): The golf club head of claim 29, wherein the geometric shapes are formed as squares, diamonds, or circles.

Claim 39 (new): The golf club head of claim 29, wherein the geometric shapes include a first plurality of geometric shapes and a second plurality of geometric shapes.